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Subject: Comments on the Potential Revisions to the Energy Star criteria for windows, doors, and skylights.

I'm in favor of the four zone proposal because it potentially saves more energy and offers the widest range of products.

I had been involved in the manufacture and development of chemicals to produce the glass coating products that enhance the thermal performance of glasses, for over twenty years, so I have a vested interest. However, I wouldn't write this unless I had proof and I was convinced of the efficacy of the products. Currently, I'm doing other work for the corporation.

Up until 2 years ago, I owned an all electric home in Southern Indiana. Within the last five years I remodeled and needed to upgrade to a heat pump system. I replaced the original single pane windows and doors with Low E double panes in PVC frames at that same time. I compared many windows and vendors; local home improvement stores and contractors, the TV adds, even do it myself, before making my choice. The results were impressive and the costs were very reasonable. My heating / cooling bills, which were fairly low to begin with, were reduced another 30% and the peak months were about 50% reduced. The spring and fall bills nearly matched my phone bill! My overall electrical activity during that period actually increased, but I was saving more in these other areas to offset and still netted about 30%. That's a good economic benefit. But the quality of the interior improved dramatically, less noise, less temperature gradient, and no cold spots or drafts near the windows. The windows were very easy to clean also.

I moved and purchased a somewhat similar an all electric home in eastern PA which was 15 years old. It has very good brand, double pane wood windows without Low E, which are virtually impossible to clean...The performance difference is noticeable, more noise - in a quieter neighborhood, drafty areas around the windows and, of course, much higher comparably "exorbitant" energy bills. The overall rate difference seasonally varies and is up to 240% higher compared to IN as well. For mechanical reasons, I'm going to have to replace the heat pump here, very soon, and based on my past experience, I'm considering changing all the windows as well, just to achieve that same comfort level, even though the other windows are not bad or might not be attractively justified on energy savings alone...Not a matter of if, but when.

So I encourage you to set policy that makes consumers aware not only to improve their energy efficiency, but realize the intangible benefits as well.

Thank you for your attention.

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